



The County Seat

News from the Leesburg District

May 2003

From Mark Herring
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

Welcome! *The County Seat: News from the Leesburg District* is an electronic newsletter to update you on recent events related to the Loudoun County Government and the actions of the Board of Supervisors, especially as they affect residents in the Leesburg District. I am hopeful *The County Seat* will help you stay informed about your County government and improve communications with me as your elected representative on the Board. I invite you to read the updates in this issue and welcome your comments and opinions.

Mark Herring

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Phil Bolen Memorial Park

In July of 2000, Loudoun County acquired the Shellhorn tract, a 460-acre parcel of land located on Sycolin Road across from the Leesburg Airport. The property was purchased to address the expansion needs of the County's Fire/Rescue Training program and to provide for needed recreational facilities as part of a Central Loudoun Park. The park has since been named "Phil Bolen Memorial Park" in honor of the former County Administrator and Parks and Recreation Director. Plans for the park include over a dozen athletic fields (some with lights), along with other recreational areas.

In February of 2003, the Board of Supervisors authorized a contract award for the architectural and engineering design services for this project. The design phase should take approximately 9 months, and construction could begin as early as spring 2004 with an opening date in late Spring 2005.

Consideration of the Master Plan by the Board of Supervisors and a Special Exception application are the next required legislative steps required for this project, which are scheduled for this Spring.



Bike to Work Day is May 2nd

Bike to Work Day will be held on Friday, May 2nd, 2003. I would encourage residents to participate in this event to help reduce traffic congestion and enjoy the many benefits by riding their bikes to work, if possible.



Loudoun County will organize one of the regional Bike to Work Day “pit stops” from 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. at Raflo Park, located at Harrison Street and the W&OD Trail in Leesburg. The event will feature free breakfast foods, raffle prizes, including a mountain bike donated by Plumgrove Bicycle Shop, and T-shirts for those who are among the first 2000 participants to register for the event on www.waba.org.

For more information about Bike to Work Day in Loudoun County, call the Office of Transportation Services at 703-737-8624.

Rust Library Expansion

Rust Library serves the Leesburg area and is located at 380 Old Waterford Road in Leesburg, adjacent to Ida Lee Park. The library opened in February of 1992 with 23,000 square feet. The population of Loudoun County has increased over 90% since Rust opened, creating increased usage and demand for services to the growing population of children and young adults. The current space is not adequate to meet these needs, so an expansion of programming, seating and shelving space is being constructed. There is also a need for an expanded circulation area designed to be flexible in adapting to changing content delivery media. Financing for these projects was approved by the voters in November 2001.

This project constructs a 15,000 square foot addition to the Rust Library and renovates the existing building. The addition will house Library Administration and expand the childrens program area. The expanded Youth Services and circulation areas would represent approximately 4,000 square feet. The proposed relocation of the Library Support Services offices to Rust would include approximately 11,000 square feet.

The Rust Library currently has a collection of approximately 100,000 volumes with the planned addition of 20,000 books and other items after the expansion.

The Board of Supervisors awarded the design contract on January 21, 2003 and the project is scheduled for completion in fall of 2005.



Rust Library

Downtown Visitors Center Opens

The Town of Leesburg officially opened a new Downtown Visitor Information Center, located in Town Hall at 25 West Market St. This information kiosk will provide visitors and local residents information and guides to special attractions in town, from restaurants, shops, government locations and public parking. It will also provide a much needed public restroom facility.



When the Loudoun Convention and Visitor Association moved to Catoctin Circle, the downtown area needed an information desk to assist tourists and residents interested in visiting local attractions.

The center will be staffed by LCVA employees on Saturdays from 9am to 5pm and Sundays from 12 noon to 5pm, and will also be open during weekday business hours.

Recently, the Town council approved a “wayfinding” sign system that will be placed around the town to direct visitors around Leesburg and create a unified sign system.

Leesburg Area Middle School Boundaries

The School Board adopted the staff-recommended boundary line changes for the Leesburg area Middle Schools, with no discussion on the matter on a 7-0-2 vote (Geurin and Flemming absent). The boundaries needed to be redefined to accommodate the 2004-05 school year opening of Smart's Mill Middle School, located next to Frances Hazel Reid Elementary School (opening August 2003), between North King Street and the Route 15 Bypass. The new middle school boundaries can be viewed at the LCPS website at: <http://www.loudoun.k12.va.us/planning>. According to Loudoun County Public Schools, Smart's Mill MS will have a program capacity of 1184 students, with a projected enrollment of 764 during the 2004-05 school year. Below you will find the projected enrollments for all Leesburg area MS for the 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 school years:

LCPS PROJECTED MIDDLE SCHOOL ENROLLMENT

	<u>2003 - 04</u>	<u>2004 - 05</u>	<u>2005 - 06</u>
Harper Park MS	1167	692	761
J Lupton Simpson MS	1001	761	802
Smart's Mill MS	X	764	806

Harper Park MS will continue to feed 100% to Heritage High School, and Simpson MS will continue to feed 100% to Loudoun County HS. Smart's MS will feed 72% to Heritage HS and 28% to Loudoun County HS.

For more information regarding school boundaries, please contact the LCPS Planning Department by phone at (703)771-6436 or email: lcpsplan@loudoun.k12.va.us.

I would like to hear from you! For opinion or comment, please contact:

Mark R. Herring, Loudoun County Board of Supervisors

1 Harrison Street, SE, 5th Floor

P.O. Box 7000

Leesburg, Virginia 20177-7000

Phone: (703)777-0204, Fax: (703)777-0421 or Email: mherring@Loudoun.gov